

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1, 7-12, and 14 have been amended to clarify the subject matter regarded as the invention. Claims 17 and 18 are new. Claims 1-18 are pending.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Hartmann.

The rejection is respectfully traversed. With respect to claim 1, Hartmann describes a generic packet format. In order to accommodate multiple formats, the source address field, destination address field, and control field have variable lengths which are specified in the source address length field, destination address length field, and control field length respectively. (Hartmann 14:25-49 and Figure 10). By contrast, claim 1 recites “translating the packet from a first protocol-specific format to a canonical packet format having a fixed length”, which allows for more efficient packet processing. Hartmann does not teach a fixed length canonical packet format. As such, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

Claims 2-13 and 17 depend from claim 1 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found, without limitation, in the above-captioned application at page 14, line 8 to page 15, line 19 and at Figure 6.

Support for the amendments to claims 7-12 may be found, without limitation, in the above-captioned application at page 15, line 23 to page 16, line 6.

Support for new claim 17 may be found, without limitation, in the above-captioned application at page 15, lines 13-19.

Claim 14 recites a system for carrying out the method of claim 1. Therefore, it is believed that claim 14 is also allowable. Claims 15-16 depend from claim 14 and are believed to be allowable for the same reasons described above.

Claim 18 recites program code for carrying out the method of claim 1. Therefore, it is believed that claim 18 is also allowable.

The foregoing amendments are not to be taken as an admission of unpatentability of any of the claims prior to the amendments.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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